

GOVANHILL BATHS GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH



Our neighbour Govanhill is one of the most varied and diverse areas in Glasgow, and indeed Scotland.

One of its most impressive achievements in recent years is the success of the Govanhill Baths development. The Baths are an exemplar of grassroots spirit and energy, emerging from the campaign that opposed council closure in 2001 and re-opening as a community hub in 2012.

The Baths have proved adept at making an impact and raising monies to achieve sustainability - the latest being the community share offer. This idea is ethical and financial; as Fatima Uygun, Baths' Manager, said 'instead of asking for a donation we wanted the community to 'buy' into the building. Community Shares are about local people becoming owners, investing in the Baths and community in the long term.'

Asking the community to invest was a first for the Baths - after 17 years, with the aim to raise £200,000; instead they raised

£267,000 from 559 donors. For Fatima this success is 'both a testament to how much local people love the Baths and how much they want it to work'. Among the many donations large and small, one was from a couple each giving £5,000, and another from a woman who gave £8,500 and chose to remain anonymous.

This support allows the Baths says Fatima to become 'a community owned building in the truest sense'. She is full of hope and positivity for the future: 'We will be able to save and refurbish a magnificent, much loved, building for at least another hundred years. United We Will Swim.'

This continues to be an uplifting story, and while Govanhill Baths cannot solve, nor claim to be able to solve all the challenges of its neighbourhood, the team's resolve and determination to effect change is inspirational. Strathbungo is proud to have Govanhill as our neighbour and friend and wishes the Baths all the best for the future.

BYGONE BUNGO

A Bungo is Born

Words by Andrew Downie



In 1876 or 1877 George Washington Wilson, a pioneering and famous Scottish landscape photographer, captured this scene from the flagpole in Queens Park. It happens to catch Strathbungo at the moment it was transforming from a weaver's village into a vibrant suburb of Glasgow, with old buildings about to disappear, and new ones under construction. In the foreground are two fine churches outside the park gates, both of which had only just been completed. What else can you spot? The photograph can be enlarged and explored in more detail at [Bygone Bungo \(bygone.bungoblog.com\)](http://Bygone Bungo (bygone.bungoblog.com)).

The photograph is from the University of Aberdeen, who hold the copyright and is reproduced with permission. Wilson's collection was rescued from an Aberdeen basement in the 1950s, and donated to the University, which has over 30,000 of his photographs on line. It forms a fascinating record of Victorian era Scotland, Britain and the world.

If you have any historic records of the area, get in touch through Bygone Bungo. In particular we would love to see any old photographs, and deeds from the Pollokshields Road tenements and Marywood Square.

A LIFE IN BUNGO PRINT

The existence of Strathbungo's newsletter is down to many, but one person has a special place - Sharon Schweps.

Born in Texas, Sharon came to Scotland in 1978, first living in Pollokshields and moving to Strathbungo in 1983. In summer 1994 she became the editor of the Society's newsletter, at a pivotal time of change for the Society. At first, Sharon reflects 'we had the streets, and an idea of communication'. For the Society to spread its message she adds, 'in order to make a community we had to tell people [that] we are here'.

The aim was simple - to be community minded and to have a good time. Sharon summarises it as 'We wanted to have fun - ceilidhs, dance nights, Bungo at the Bells, Bungo in the Lanes, and for people to feel proud of living in Strathbungo.' Sharon was a driving force in organising events, along with others, including her friend Kay Caldwell. And all of this was publicised and recorded in the Newsletter.

Its many issues have seen numerous highlights. Most of all Sharon values her interview with Rosa Sacharin, one of the Kindertransport children who escaped Nazi Germany in the 1930s, and now lives in Vennard Gardens. Sharon recounts that 'Rosa saw Hitler in the flesh in Berlin. An unaccompanied child, she went on to write the seminal text in paediatric nursing. All that, and she lives right here in Strathbungo.'

Another high has been the continuation of this newsletter. Its editor for a decade Sharon then handed over to others, but returned to oversee its transformation - 'from a black and white photocopy to a full colour quality print'. She reflects on her journey - 'I loved the freedom I had to build (the newsletter) ... and I want to see it continue.' Thanks to Sharon's dedication it is here and secure into the future.

BUNGO CULTURE

Strathbungo Sessions

Words by Graeme and Lorna McKerracher



On a cold November evening, one Queen Square living room became the unlikely stage for some of Scotland's best musicians to play an intimate house gig. Graeme & Lorna played host to the first 'Strathbungo Session' for 30 local music lovers, who were treated to rare stripped back performances from Craig McKerracher, The Wayward Puritans, Andrew

Howie and Admiral Fallow's Louis Abbott.

The house gig movement has been growing around the world, recently gaining some serious media coverage with Amnesty International's #GiveAHome run of 300 living room gigs in one day.

Graeme told us 'We've talked about hosting a house gig since we moved here, and 2 and a half years later, we finally got round to it. It was amazing to have some of our favourite musicians play to our friends and neighbours in the comfort of our front room. We'll definitely do it again and it'd be great if others in the area hosted their own shows too.'

Given the success of this first show, there are sure to be more Strathbungo Sessions in the future. Perhaps you could host one yourself? If you'd like any information about how to get involved, contact strathbungosessions@gmail.com

SOUTHSIDE HAPPENINGS

The Tramway is a Building with Soul

Words by Ann G. Nisbet

The Tramway's industrial aesthetic, is in strong contrast to the West End splendour of 'Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery' or the grandeur of the former Merchant's house, now home to our Modern Art Gallery.

Originally constructed as Coplawhill Tram depot in 1893, (eight years before Kelvingrove opened), the building was initially a horse-tram depot, quickly expanding to include large workshops dedicated to the fabrication and maintenance of Glasgow's Tramcars. On 4 September 1962, the Trams entered through the large doorways of Coplawhill depot for the final time. The building reinvented itself as the Transport Museum in the sixties before becoming the art venue that we now know as Tramway in 1988.

For me Tramway is a celebration of Glasgow: its industrialisation, its manufacturing, its creativity, its resilience. There are few spaces in the city that celebrate all these aspects of Glasgow's history. The narrative of the city's industrial past remains evident in small details and grand gestures; from the huge round headed doorways, to the tram tracks still visible on the floor, to the long horse ramp that gave access to the upper level stables. The building is full of small moments relating to the past; it is a place where you sense the others that have been before.

Against this backdrop of Glasgow's industrial past, cutting edge theatre and contemporary art is performed and displayed.

Theatre director Peter Brooke, described the Tramway as "an industrial cathedral that connects art with humanity ... It's real, it speaks of the city's history, it speaks of Glasgow." For me it's a place with soul, an example of what we had, what we have lost and how we should reinvent and reuse our remaining industrial buildings.



STRATHBUNGO WINDOW WANDERLAND

Strathbungo Window Wanderland is back! On Saturday 24 February 2018, the streets of Strathbungo will once again transform into a spectacular outdoor gallery for all to enjoy.



Thanks to the incredible efforts of Strathbungo residents, the 2017 event exceeded all expectations... It attracted national media attention and was seen as a real celebration of community and creativity! From performances in front rooms to amazing projections onto buildings; mischievous monkeys, polka dot parties, disco balls, bubble baths, mythical creatures, intricate installations, pop up bingo halls and tattoo parlours, fantastical faraway lands and music filling the streets.... It was beautiful! We can't wait to see what 2018's event brings!

Here's all you need to know to take part in this year's event...

- Simply sign up at windowwanderland.com to add your home to our online map.
- Follow our facebook page for updates on our event.
- Tell your friends and neighbours and ask them to get involved too... you might even want to work together on a display across your homes!

- Create a window display in the front windows of your flat, house, business or shop.
- On the evening of Saturday 24 February 2018 between 5.30 and 9.30pm, go for a walk around Strathbungo and enjoy a wonderful street festival!
- Drop £2 through the letterbox at 41 Regent Park Square to cover our donation to the wider Window Wanderland organisation to help them to continue their work.
- We are unable to organise an official road closure for the event due to the prohibitive cost, but encourage local residents to park elsewhere and to avoid driving through Strathbungo on the night of the event.

If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Reid at bungo_window_wander@hotmail.com

GAVIN STAMP

Gavin Stamp, who sadly died on 30 December 2017, was known to many of us in Strathbungo as a former neighbour and friend who was tireless in his rediscovery and promotion of Alexander 'Greek' Thomson as an architect of international importance.

Kevin Kane, Strathbungo Society Chair writes "The Strathbungo Society was saddened to hear of Gavin's

untimely death. As both a local resident and neighbour, Gavin championed Strathbungo's Alexander Thomson as well as Glasgow's magnificent Victorian built heritage. He will be missed".

See bungoblog.com for a full article on the life of Gavin Stamp by Andrew Greg.

NEWS IN BRIEF

A round up of all things Strathbungo: this quarter's bite-sized Bungo business!

GHOST WALK 2018

Bygone Bungo's article on our 2003 Ghost Walk (<http://bygone.bungoblog.com/wp/strathbungo-ghosts/>) reminded us that it's high time for another Halloween extravaganza. How about it? Our street-names conjure up an impressive cast of ghosts – Mary(wood), Queen of Scots lost her last battle over in the Park to Earl Moray, who after her abdication became Regent to Lord Darnley's lad – plus Fotheringay, Melville, the spooks march on.

Want to help research, write, produce, promote or maybe star in it? Email: news@strathbungo.co.uk.



CHOMPSKY'S

You may have noticed the beginning of work on 758 Pollokshaws Road with some hastily drawn graffiti signposting it as street food favourites Chompsky's next project. With it being early days they're reluctant to give too much away but they've informed us that "Gnom" will be straying away from the street food and taking their skills to a more refined cafe venture. Keep an eye on the social media channels for more news



BRAND NEW BRAND

2018 launches a new logo for the Strathbungo Society. The design uses two separate but compatible fonts: the clean lines of 'STRATH' suggest more formal aspects of our work while the rougher 'BUNGO' represents the spontaneous fun of our events, and can be used on its own. Set within a Greek Thomson keyline, the rectangular shape echoes street signs along Pollokshaws Road. The design is by local Niall Walker, graphic artist and marketing consultant: www.niallwalkerdesign.com/



SEEKING TRUTH, DELIVERING JUSTICE

Attempts by Strathbungo News journalists to contact private investigator, Mr Honourable, on Nithsdale Road have, as yet, been unfruitful. With ambitious aims to seek truth and deliver justice, we are yet to see a member of staff in the shop. Could it be true that, as some suggest, this is an elaborate art installation? We hope to have more information on this new, local enterprise in our next edition.

If you have any information on Mr Honourable's whereabouts, please contact news@strathbungo.co.uk.



PARK LANE MARKET

With two successful markets in the lead-up to Christmas now under their belt, Park Lane Market plan to continue hosting monthly pop-up markets in 2018 with a range of boutique stalls, including many local crafters and businesses, and a popular food court.

If you are interested in having a stall or for more information on future markets, contact parklanemarket@gmail.com

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN

The Strathbungo Society AGM saw the re-election as chair of Kevin Kane. He said he 'is keen to see the Society develop and attract new voices and new ideas for Strathbungo.' Kevin has a tradition of always being available whatever the Bungo crisis and while some are talking of term limits, we would like to show our thanks for all his efforts over the years. Who knows what Kevin could have achieved had he not undertaken all those Bungo activities. The world's loss is the Bungo's gain!

WANTED

Anyone in the Bungo fancy regularly playing chess? Once decent player now rusty looking to improve. Contact Gerry at gerry@gerryhassan.com

LAUNCH OF NITHSDALE GREEN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Words by Nick Kempe

It's been a long time coming but a steering group has now been formed to improve Nithsdale Rd, between Pollokshaws Rd and Shields Rd, and the neighbouring public spaces. There are five patches of green along this section of Nithsdale Rd, hence the Nithsdale Green project. The aspiration is to make Nithsdale Rd a better space. This follows the development last year of a community plan for Pollokshields, which included the Nithsdale part of Strathbungo, through the process known as a charrette.

The Strathbungo Society contributed ideas to this from two community walkabouts and has been involved in setting up the Steering Group. We have agreed to co-ordinate a sub-group which will look at developing proposals for the Nithsdale Rd cul de sac, inspired by the response to

the consultation on the future of the red phone box, and contribute to another which will work on the Kildrostan St triangle. The challenge now is how to develop and then make some of these ideas a reality.

Help is available from the Pollokshields Trust, who soon will have staff to assist the development of community initiatives, and who have expert advice available on how to access funds. However, we also need local people to become involved, whether to contribute ideas or assist with practical tasks, including engagement with residents and businesses on the street.

If interested or you want to know more please contact treasurer@strathbungo.co.uk.

LOCAL LISTINGS by Katherine Cory

11 FEB

Brighter Bungo Clearup

15 FEB

Window Wanderland Open Studio
Tramway
4pm - 7pm

18 FEB

Willy Mason Matinee Family Concert
The Glad Cafe
4pm

18 FEB

Park Lane Market
11am

20 FEB

Glad Cafe Quiz night
7.30pm

24 FEB

Window Wanderland
5.30pm - 9.30pm

24 FEB

The Hidden Gardens
Weekend Gardening
12.30pm - 3pm

4 MAR

Tramway Family Day
12pm - 4.30pm

17 MAR

Spring Fling
Queens Park Church

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